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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 20. (Canceled)
21. (Original) An outboard motor comprising:
a powerhead having a combustion engine configured to drive a multi-mode alternator, a midsection configured for mounting the outboard motor to a watercraft, and a lower unit powered by the combustion engine to propel a watercraft;
a switching regulator configured to receive an AC power from a plurality of windings of the multi-mode alternator and deliver an operational DC power; and
an engine control unit (ECU) configured to control the switching regulator according to a first operation scheme upon receiving a first interrupt and a second operation scheme upon receiving a second interrupt.
22. (Original) The outboard motor of claim 21 wherein the first operation scheme includes a first configuration of the plurality of windings and the second operation scheme includes a second configuration of the plurality of windings.
23. (Original) The outboard motor of claim 21 wherein the ECU is selectively configurable to control the switching regulator according to at least one of a configuration of the outboard motor and a set of environmental parameters.
24. (Original) The outboard motor of claim 21 wherein the first interrupt is a zero-cross interrupt and the second interrupt is a voltage regulation interrupt.
25. (Original) The outboard motor of claim 21 wherein the ECU is further configured to determine at least one of a phase of the AC power generated by the combustion engine, a number of phase transitions of the AC power generated by the combustion engine, a winding load on each of the plurality of windings, and a revolutions per minute (RPM) of the combustion engine.